



Fr. Matt's Musings

January 12, 2018

Stephen Hopkins was one of the fifty-six signers of the Declaration of Independence. He was from Rhode Island, and he suffered from palsy. Unlike the bold, clear and large, famous signature of John Hancock, Hopkins' was less legible. He commented after his signing, "even though the hand trembles, the heart does not."

In the Book of Deuteronomy, the human heart is described as tortuous: winding, twisting. In the Salesian tradition, Francis tells us that our hearts must be pliable, able to bend without breaking. St. Margaret Mary, a Visitation sister, received a vision of the Sacred Heart of Jesus: merciful, compassionate, understanding and one that sides with those who suffer. There is always room for all of us in Jesus' sacred heart.

There are always tugs on the human heart: warm, loving, tender, generous, compassionate, but also, cold, aching, broken, hardened and calculating. There is no other part of the body more associated with the spiritual life than the heart. With Hopkins, maybe we can say that our hearts do not tremble, but let's take frequent heart checks to make sure they are beating what is life-giving and pulsating love mercy and compassion.

Live Jesus!
Fr. Matt

Final Note. If you go to my page on the OLGC site, there are links to all of the previous musings and to my monthly weekend Mass schedule. Have a good holiday weekend!

<http://www.olgcva.org/about-us/welcome>

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